

**What is claimed is:**

1. A method for managing and controlling a plurality of electric power assets as a single  
5 power plant from a central location, comprising:

receiving operating data from a plurality of electric power devices;

receiving data concerning electric power requirements;

controlling at least one of said plurality of electric power devices to modify its  
performance as a function of said operating data and said requirements data.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein controlling at least one of said plurality of electric  
power devices to modify its performance as a function of said operating data and said  
requirements data results in optimizing operation of said plurality of electric devices.

15 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining costs to produce electric  
power to meet said electric power requirements.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein controlling operation of said plurality of electric  
power devices comprises maximizing reliability of electric power produced.

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5. The method of claim 1, wherein controlling operation of said plurality of electric  
power devices comprises minimizing cost to produce electric power produced.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein controlling operation of said plurality of electric power devices comprises maximizing prices received for electric power produced.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein controlling operation of said plurality of electric power devices comprises maximizing efficiency of electric power devices utilized.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein said plurality of electric power devices are widely distributed geographically.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein said plurality of electric power devices are a plurality of the list comprising:
- emergency generators;
  - fuel cells;
  - photovoltaic cells;
  - reciprocating engines;
  - wind turbines;
  - microturbines;
  - batteries;
  - super-conducting magnetic energy storage; and
  - flywheels.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein said electric power devices comprise:

electric power generators; and

electric storage units.

5 11. A communications system for managing a plurality of electric power assets as a single power plant from a central location, comprising:

a communications network;

a plurality of electric power devices in communication with said communications network; and

10 a central control station in communication with said plurality of electric power devices via said communications system.

12. The communications system of claim 11, wherein said central control station contains computer-executable instructions for:

15 receiving operating data from a plurality of electric power devices;

receiving data concerning electric power requirements;

controlling at least one of said plurality of electric power devices to modify its performance as a function of said operating data and said requirements data.

20 13. The communications system of claim 12, wherein controlling at least one of said plurality of electric power devices to modify its performance as a function of said

operating data and said requirements data results in optimizing operation of said plurality of electric devices.

14. The communications system of claim 11, wherein said central control station contains  
5 further computer-executable instructions for determining costs to produce electric power to meet said electric power requirements.

15. A computer-readable medium containing computer-executable instructions for:  
receiving operating data from a plurality of electric power devices;  
10 receiving data concerning electric power requirements;  
controlling at least one of said plurality of electric power devices to modify its performance as a function of said operating data and said requirements data.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein controlling at least one of said  
15 plurality of electric power devices to modify its performance as a function of said operating data and said requirements data, results in optimizing operation of said plurality of electric devices.

17. A system for managing and controlling a plurality of electric power assets as a single  
20 power plant from a central location comprising:  
an input device for receiving operating data from a plurality of electric power devices;

an input device for receiving data concerning electric power requirements;  
a processor for controlling at least one of said plurality of electric power devices  
as a function of said operation data and said electric power requirements data; and  
a communications network for establishing communicatively coupling said  
5 plurality of electric power devices and said processor for optimizing operation of said  
plurality of electric power devices as a function of said operation data and said electric  
power requirements data.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein controlling at least one of said plurality of electric  
10 power devices to modify its performance as a function of said operating data and said  
requirements data results in optimizing operation of said plurality of electric devices.